

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A thrombus capture catheter comprising:

a sheath with a lumen passing therethrough from a proximal end thereof to a distal end thereof and being closed at the proximal end thereof by a closing member;

a flexible shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, said flexible shaft being a wire member that serves as a guide wire for a balloon catheter and being removably arranged in the lumen of said sheath; and

a thrombus capture member having a proximal end and a distal end and being provided on a distal portion of said shaft;

said thrombus capture member comprising a crossed wire member and a filter attached thereto, said crossed wire member comprising a plurality of spirally-configured wires, which cross each other, thereby forming an original configuration swollen in middle portion and tapered to the proximal and distal ends thereof under a normal condition,

said filter being provided with pores and being mounted on the distal side of said crossed wire member to cover a part of the swollen portion thereof, said crossed wire member being fixed at the proximal end thereof to said shaft and being slidably mounted at the distal end on said shaft, said shaft passing through the thrombus capture member and protruding from the distal end of the thrombus capture member,

said thrombus capture member being removably held in said sheath in a contracted condition being restorable to said original configuration thereof when protruded from said

sheath through the distal end thereof by pulling said sheath in the direction of the proximal end of the sheath.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 1, wherein pores of said filter have a diameter ranging from 50 to 1000 micrometers.

4. (Previously Presented) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 1, wherein said closing member is a tubular member having a closed proximal end and an open distal end into which said sheath is inserted, said closing member is provided on a central axis thereof with a through-hole passing through said closed proximal end thereof for insertion of said shaft and includes a hemostatic valve arranged close to the through-hole, and wherein the proximal portion of said shaft is protruded from the sheath through said through hole and hemostatic valve.

5. (Previously Presented) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 1, wherein said sheath is provided in a side wall close to the distal end thereof with a side hole allowing the shaft to pass therethrough, and with a second lumen communicated with said proximal side wall and allowing said thrombus capture member to pass through, a part of said shaft extending beyond a proximal side of said thrombus capture member being protruded from the sheath through said side hole.

6. (Previously Presented) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 1, wherein said closing member is provided with a side infusion tube.

7. (Previously Presented) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 1, wherein said thrombus capture member is further provided at the distal end thereof with a slide ring assembly comprising an inner ring and an outer ring, the wires of said crossed wire member being sandwiched between and fixed to said inner and outer rings at the distal end of said thrombus capture member, said inner ring being slidably mounted on the shaft to allow said thrombus capture member to be moved along the shaft.

8. (Previously Presented) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 1, wherein said thrombus capture member is slidably attached at the distal end thereof to the shaft by a slide ring and fixed at the proximal end thereof to the shaft by a fixed ring.

9. (Previously Presented) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 1, wherein said filter is a funnel-shaped member including a cylindrical part, a constricting part and a constricted part extending from the smaller end of the constricting part, said constricting part being provided with plural pores which prevents the thrombus from passing therethrough to capture the thrombi in the filter while allowing the body fluid to pass therethrough.

10. (Previously Presented) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 1, wherein said thrombus capture member is slidably attached at the distal end thereof to the shaft by a slide ring and fixed at the proximal end thereof to the shaft by a fixed ring, and.

wherein said filter is a funnel-shaped member including a cylindrical part, a constricting part and a constricted part extending from the smaller end of the constricting part, said constricting part being provided with plural pores which prevents the thrombus from passing therethrough to capture the thrombi in the filter while allowing the body fluid to pass therethrough.

11. (Currently Amended) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 1, wherein the flexible shaft ~~always~~-serves as the guide wire for the balloon catheter.

12. (New) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of spirally-configured wires includes eight spirally-configured wires.

13. (New) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of spirally-configured wires includes eight spirally-configured wires, and distal ends of the eight wires are sandwiched at regular intervals between said inner and outer rings of the slidable ring at the distal end of said thrombus capture member.

14. (New) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 7, wherein said thrombus capture member is further provided at a proximal end thereof with a fixed ring assembly comprising an inner ring and an outer ring, the wires of said crossed wire member

being sandwiched between and fixed to said inner and outer rings at the proximal end of said thrombus capture member, said inner ring being fixedly mounted on the shaft to allow the proximal end of said thrombus capture member to be fixed to the shaft.

15. (New) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of spirally-configured wires includes eight spirally-configured wires, and ends of the eight wires being sandwiched between said inner and outer rings of the fixed ring at the proximal end of said thrombus capture member.

16. (New) The thrombus capture catheter according to claim 1, wherein under the normal condition, the spirally-configured wires are tapered in a substantially equal manner at the proximal and distal ends thereof.